

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 AF-10 ARA-16

EA-11 EUR-25 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /173 W

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O R 181715Z FEB 74 ZFF-6

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2753

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0546

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNSC IR IZ

SUBJECT: IRAQI COMPLAINT IN SC

SUMMARY: IRANIAN PERM REP HOVEYDA CALLED ON AMB SCALI FEB 18 TO DESCRIBE HIS NEW INSTRUCTIONS ON HANDLING OF IRAQI COMPLAINT TO SC. INSTRUCTIONS ARE 1) TO CONTINUE TO OPPOSE ANY SC RES, NO MATTER HOW NEUTRAL AND 2) TO AGREE TO DESPATCH OF SYG REPRESENTATIVE TO INVESTIGATE SITUATION AT SCENE OF CONFLICT SO LONG AS ACTION TAKEN BY SC CONSENSUS RATHER THAN BY RES. SCALI COMMENTED THAT MAJORITY OF SC MEMBERS WLD FIND IT EXTREMELY HARD TO ABSTAIN ON EVEN-HANDED RES IF IRAQ PERSISTED.
END SUMMARY

1. IN FEB 18 CALL ON AMB SCALI, IRANIAN PERM REP HOVEYDA SAID HIS GOVT HAD JUST SENT HIM NEW FACTS WHICH PROVED THAT FEB 10 IRAQI BORDER ATTACK HAD BEEN PREMEDITATED FOR REASONS OF IRAQI DOMESTIC POLICIES. TWO FACTS PERSUADED TEHRAN THIS WAS CASE: (A) DAY AFTER INCIDENT, FILM OF CLASH WAS SHOWN ON TV BOTH IN BAGHDAD AND
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MOSCOW. CERTAINLY IRAN DID NOT STAGE AN INCURSION

INTO IRAQI TERRITORY FOR BENEFIT OF SOV AND IRAQI MEDIA.

(B) ON FEB 15 IRAQIS SENT TEAM TO PICK UP THEIR DEAD IN IRANIAN TERRITORY. TEAM REFUSED TO CERTIFY THAT BODIES WERE ON IRANIAN SOIL, AND IRANIAN AUTHORITIES ACCORDINGLY REFUSED TO HAND THEM OVER. STILL ANOTHER INDICATION THAT CLASH WAS PREMEDITATED WAS THAT IRAQI AUTHORITIES HAD AGAIN BEGUN EXPELLING IRANIAN RELIGIOUS LEADERS FROM NAJJAF. NEWEST SERIES OF EXPULSIONS HAD BEGUN ON FEB 11, DAY AFTER CLASH.

2. HOVEYDA SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKING HIMSELF WHAT CLD BE BEHIND IRAQI ACTIONS. HE HAD CONCLUDED THAT REASON LAY IN IRAQI PERM REP EL-SHIBIB'S UNUSUAL EMPHASIS IN HIS SC STATEMENT ON DAMAGE TO IRAQI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF BORDER CONFLICT. HOVEYDA SAID IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT IRAQ MIGHT HAVE MANUFACTURED INCIDENT IN ORDER TO AVOID HAVING TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON ITS PROMISE TO IRAQIS TO RAISE NATIONAL INCOME BY 40 PERCENT.

3. HOVEYDA CHARACTERIZED NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM SHAH, AS EVEN HARDER THAN HIS PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS. HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT (REPEAT NOT) TO ACCEPT ANY RES OR RECOMMENDATION FROM SC. HE HAD BEEN TOLD TO INFORM COUNCIL MEMBERS THAT SUPPORT FOR ANY RES, NO MATTER HOW NEUTRAL OR ANODYNE, WOULD BE CONSIDERED "AN UNFRIENDLY ACT" BY HIS GOVT. AT SAME TIME, HOVEYDA SAID, TEHRAN WLD NOT OBJECT IF SYG WISHES TO SEND PERSONAL REP TO INVESTIGATE FACTS IN COMBAT AREA. SYG'S REP WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO IRAN, BUT HOVEYDA SAW NO DIFFICULTIES IN THAT REGARD -- FOR EXAMPLE, MR LACOSTE, WHOM THE SYG HAD ALREADY SUGGESTED, WOULD BE PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE. HOVEYDA CONCLUDED THAT BEST WAY TO LAUNCH SYG REP WLD BE BY WAY OF CONSENSUS, AND HE HOPED PERSUADE SC PRES DE GUIRINGUAD OF THIS THIS AFTERNOON.

4. AMB SCALI THANKED HOVEYDA FOR EXPLAINING HIS GOVT'S NEW POSITION. HE ASKED IF IRAN CLD NOT ACCEPT EVEN-HANDED RES IF IT WAS TABLED BY FRIENDLY GOVT SUCH AS AUSTRIA. HOVEYDA REPLIED EMPHATICALLY NOT, REASON BEING THAT IRAQ WLD PORTRAY AS A VICTORY ANY RES ADOPTED IN RESPONSE TO ITS COMPLAINT. AMB SCALI COMMENTED THAT

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OUR SOUNDINGS AMONG SC MEMBERS CONVINCED US THAT THERE WLD BE GREAT DEAL OF SUPPORT FOR A NEUTRAL RES. MEMBERS WOULD FEEL FOOLISH BEING ASKED TO ABSTAIN ON A RES IN FAVOR OF MOTHERHOOD. IRAN'S PROBLEM, HE EMPHASIZED, WAS NOT WITH USG BUT WITH OTHER GOVTS WHICH HAD CLOSE RELATIONS WITH IRAQ AS WELL AS WITH IRAN, AND WHICH WOULD TRY TO AVOID HAVING TO TAKE SIDES AGAINST

IRAQ.
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